

The INYO COUNTY NEWS-LETTER

A NEWS ALTERNATIVE - EASTERN SIERRA NEWS SERVICE

Compiled by John Heston and Benett Kessler

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Published weekly

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Week of
April 10, 1978

ELECTION

SNIPING AT JEANNIE

A NO-CONTEST RACE
BECOMES A HOT ISSUE

IN A PRESS RELEASE STRONGLY urging the candidacy of only "qualified" people for e-

lection to law enforcement offices, the Inyo County Deputy Sheriff's Association last week fueled a controversy in one of the county elections that until then had plodded routinely along on the general assumption that there was no contest at all. In the press release, which was published in the local press last week, the deputies' association expressed "concern over the California State Statute that allows candidacy for an important Law Enforcement position, such as that of 'Sheriff' without requiring at least some minimal qualifications." Generally it was believed that the deputies' statement was aimed squarely at the candidacy of a young Olancho woman, Jeannie Harness, who is Sheriff Floyd Barton's sole opposition in the upcoming election. Asked if the association had timed its press release because of Harness' candidacy, Association President Tom Gonzales admitted, "This...plus the fact other associations are coming out with similar statements." The deputies' association was formed several months ago and at the time of its organization its officials averred that the deputies would follow strict lines in remaining out of political issues. The sheriff himself,

(See ELECTION, Page 7)

WATER ISSUE

ROCKEFELLER GRANT

A PRESTIGIOUS FOUNDATION PROVIDES MONEY FOR A FULL-FLEDGED STUDY OF THE HISTORIC AND PRESENT INYO COUNTY-DWP WATER CONFLICT

A KEY OFFICIAL IN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF Planning and Research is resigning his Sacramento position to make a new study of the ongoing conflict between Inyo County, the Owens Valley and the Los Angeles Department of water and Power. William L. "Bill" Kahrl, the director of research in the state office, told NEWS-LETTER this week that a Rockefeller Foundation grant will enable him to continue with an Owens Valley study he has worked on privately for a number of years. A press release from Kahrl's office at Carmichael, California, said "The Rockefeller Foundation of New York has announced plans to fund a new study of the controversy over the Los Angeles Aqueduct and the history of the city's relations with the Owens Valley."

Already, Kahrl has published a history of the Owens Valley water fight in an issue of the California Historical Quarterly. That was in 1976. Kahrl said late last week that "The Owens Valley is one place where history plays a particularly vital role in current events. The

(See ROCKEFELLER GRANT, Page 9)

Next Week: CHILD ABUSE IN INYO COUNTY
Health and law enforcement officials
see a growing problem of home cruelty.

PINE CREEK ACID SPILL

FLAP OVER POLLUTION MESS

UNION CARBIDE'S SECOND MAJOR ACCIDENT
AROUSSES PUBLIC AND OFFICIAL PROTESTS

THE OFFICIAL POSITION WAS ONE OF WAIT-AND-see, of not jumping "to any conclusions," but no doubt about it, the second accidental "spill" of Union Carbide toxins into the waters of Pine Creek had set off an angry reaction in the Round Valley area north of Bishop.

There had been some talk of a lawsuit, but at least one resident, echoing the feelings of neighbors, said "We just want to make sure it doesn't happen again." Said another: "The mouths of the fish were burned out. They were dead. Suppose a child had gotten into the water?"

The California Fish & Game Department had taken a look at Union Carbide's sulphuric acid mess - result of a tank or pipeline leak - and said "In all liklihood, a complaint will be sought. We are now gathering evidence and when we get everything together, we'll consult the district attorney. And we may be ready to do that this week."

Not so certain was the Lahontan Water Board's Engineer David Oldenburg who had coll-

(See ACID SPILL, Page 9)

NEWS BRIEFS

TIGHTENING THE SCREWS

NEW DWP LEASE ISSUE; MORE COUNTY WORKERS
QUIT; MANZANAR; AND SIDEWALKS FOR SUBURBIA

THINGS HAD BEEN LOOKING UP A BIT FOR INYO'S cattle producers - pastures greener from winter rains and a slightly improved market position - when their grazing land owner, the Department of Water and Power, dumped a new worry on them: no more short-term leases. In its harsh new announcement, the DWP went to no pains to cover up its motive; the cattlemen's leases would become another DWP bargaining chip in its ongoing legal brawl with Inyo County.

(See NEWS BRIEFS, Page 3)

"POP ROCKS" CRAZE
HITS INYO

Candy fan
Jonah Moos



Here and elsewhere a candy "Pop!" has turned into a retail "Boom" as the kids buy "Pop Rocks." See NOTES FROM B.K., Page 2



BENNETT KESSLER

FOR ANTIQUE BUFFS there's good news and bad news. The good news: All the unique stock of Bishop's Oddity House will be up for auction April 22. Everything from tiny figurines to massive oak furniture. The bad news: Owners Georgi Ana Smith and Nora Jean Wagoner have decided to sell out Oddity House and close it down. They'll devote all their time to the nearby Country Western Art Gallery. As for the auction, there'll be some bargains, but buyers should have some idea of value; many antiques are misleading with true worth difficult to establish.

REMEMBER HEIKKI LUNTA? Heikki was a Michigan recluse who wrote a song about the weather, and when a radio station played the record, the snow started. They called it Heikki's Snow Dance Song, and over a period of years other stations around the country tried it out as a promotion for snow. It had a strange way of working and the AP picked it up as a feature report. We tried it on a radio show here with marginal results during last year's drought. Well, this year one of our fans remembered the flip side of the record - "Heikki Lunta Go Away - which is supposed to stop the snowfall. Our friend says we should try it, to hold back the floods. Well, why not.

IN ANSWER TO RUMORS HE'LL BE LEAVING, The DWP's Owens Valley Engineer says not yet, but admits he "has served his three-to-five" in the Owens Valley. It would appear that O.V. is a kind of training ground for DWP officials (If they can take the heat here, they can presumably handle anything L.A. has by way of challenge). The usual valley tour is rarely more than five years and he completes that term this summer. "Maybe next summer," says Wickser.

A HANDFUL OF LOCAL MALCONTENTS with nothing better to do has fallen for that Fallbrook, Cal., ad placed in the local paper, and has started a small Ku Klux Klan hereabouts. They skulk about at night licking stickers and slapping them on cars, doorways, etc.: "THE EYES of the KLAN ARE UPON YOU." What the KKK enthusiasts DON'T know is, well, a lot: (1) one of the "Klansmen" is an infiltrator who took the oath as a gag and is talking a lot (2) another is more interested (and reportedly successful) in making time with the others' women than he is in "purifying the race," and (3) a "Klansman" is friendly with a local elected official who may not be as friendly as the Klansman thinks. Prediction: the KKK will probably wind up at each others' throats...or re-organize and operate under another name, minus a member or two. And would you believe - there is also a "one-man Klan" here, a single individual "working" without knowing about the others. The boss at Fallbrook, meanwhile (with no connection to the national Klan), is raking in the membership dues, some of which (according to L.A. sources) flows into the dope traffic. Bishop cops are watching.

CONTRARY TO A RUMORED REPORT (from an area med-

ia type, Inyo County is NOT a major center for California Klan activities.

BACK TO THE FUNNY BOOKS, folks. If you've been watching your tube of late, you'll find an increasing number of pre-school favorites: "Wonder Woman," "Bionic Woman," etc., and now, "Spider Man." The TV executives have discovered that American tastes are even more juvenile than they had imagined and that the "Superman" syndrome (the Walter Mitty in all of us that makes us all feel powerless against that which we consider evil, and which makes us secretly want to be "super" in some way) will run up the ratings very quickly. To understand why television runs such junk, first try to grab this idea: TV has no interest in selling anything to anyone; TV only tries to deliver an audience of X-number of people to the advertiser. They're doing it, but at tremendous cost to public taste and intelligence. After all, you don't have to think or to act, or ever be brave so long as Spider Man is doing it all for you.

ONE GIANT STEP UP THE LADDER OF TV from the likes of Spider Man is perhaps the News. If you're a Channel 4 fan and you dig Tom Snyder, you may soon see him as a national news anchorman - if his foes at NBC (who claim he has too much showbiz approach to news) don't succeed in their "Stop Snyder" movement. Meanwhile over at Channel 2, things may be looking up: the new-old Benti-Chung-Hill formula is sharper, faster, and holds more "solid news" than ever before.

A COUNTRY-WESTERN BASH, the Vern Gosdin Show, sold out four days in advance - 600 ducats went to the local fans who wasted no time shelling out to see R.W. Blackwood and Frieda Parton & Company at the Bishop Fairgrounds. If anybody has any question about what people hereabouts like for entertainment, just ask John Young, manager of Radio KIBS which sponsored the show Friday night.

TRIPPING OFF TO EUROPE? Lower air fares and a lot of nice things happening on the continent will attract many trans-ocean travelers this year. One problem: decline of the dollar means you'll be paying more for some things. Why not go early and miss the midsummer crowds. Ask your travel agent about: AUSTRIA - Austrian Wine Fair at Krems, Vienna citywide concerts, and festivals at Ossiach and Villach, all in May-June; BELGIUM, trade fair at Brussels and fairs and fun all summer long; GERMANY - ballet and music festivals, May through June; GREECE - More of the same, early summer; ITALY - Gondola regatta, late April; etc. And if you dig racing, the 36th Auto Grand Prix at Monaco on May 7. Always a good bet if you like the exotic: Rent (for a pittance) a houseboat on Dal Lake in the Vale of Kashmir in the Himalayas; luxury with (sometimes too many) servants underfoot amidst a quiet, lush greenery.

IF YOU'RE A SEE-AMERICA-FIRST TYPE, Derby Day at Louisville can be fun if you know where to stay. That's in May of course.

(More B.K.'s NOTES, Page 5)

SCHOBER LANE'S TREES LOOKING FOR A CULPRIT

THE DWP GOES BLAMELESS THIS TIME
AS A RANCHER REMOVES A ROAD HAZARD

THE FLAP OVER A ROW OF STATELY TREES - OR the absence of same - took an unexpected twist last week as it came to light that the Department of Water and Power, after all, was not in this case the "heavy." A prominent Bishop rancher, Don Tatum, who leases some Schober Lane grazing acreage from DWP, said late in the week that, rumors to the contrary, it was he that ordered removal of about 50 tall Locust trees that for many years had provided a leafy, sun-filtered arbor over a long stretch of Schober Lane. Tree admirers in the area leaped headlong into a harangue against the DWP which in recent years has demonstrated less than a crusading concern for the valley's trees. As it turned out, their assumption and claims of DWP guilt were mistaken.

According to Tatum, the trees were dying, falling down, and even crashing over the roadway. At least two accidents were caused by the fallen trees, and two of Tatum's cattle were killed when a fence was struck down. Tatum said the Locusts began dying out some time back - after he switched from irrigation to a sprinkler system to water his lands. When the irrigation ditch running the length of the line of trees dried up, so did the trees. "Then," said the rancher, "they started blowing over

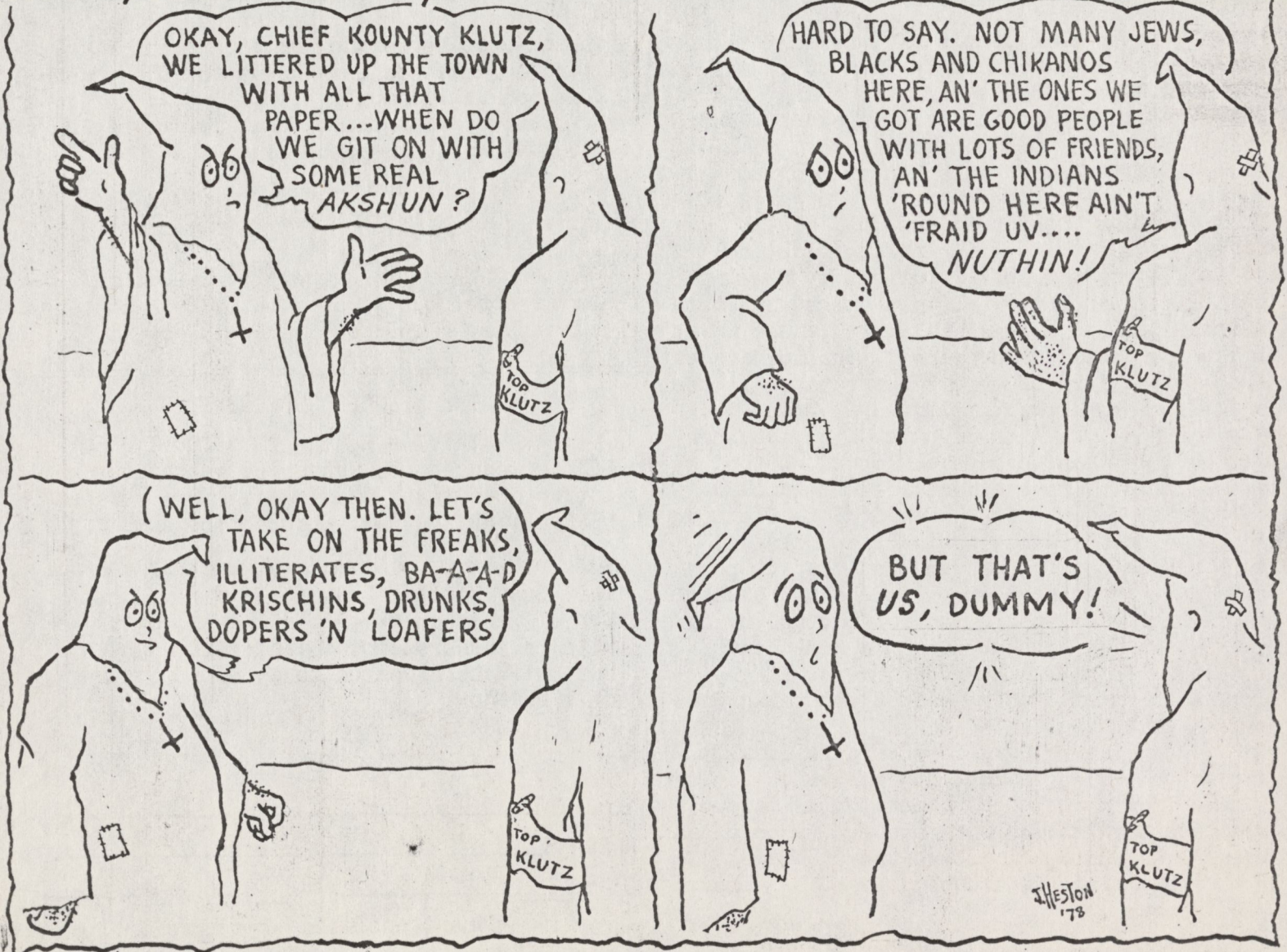
on the road and on the fence. The cattle got out and there were three accidents. Two cattle were killed and two cars wrecked. Another time, we were trying to get a tree out of the road and a carload of drunks ran into us." When removal of the trees became necessary, the DWP was contacted. "They didn't say yes, and they didn't say no," reports Tatum. Then the county got into the issue. Public Works Director Bob Fisher said he talked to the DWP officials and was advised that "about 40% of trees" - the ones remaining alive - should be left. But a contracting company, Bishop's A&R Maintenance service, was called in to take away Schober Lane's arbor of shade. A company spokesman had no comment regarding what to him was a routine job.

NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

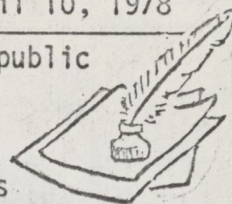
Department officials say they can't "engage in long-term lease agreements with agricultural lessees" - not at least until the DWP's environmental impact report issue is safely out of court, and DWP is free to drain off all the Inyo groundwater it can pump. To the straight-talking cattlemen that translated into "Get your county government to drop its lawsuits, and we'll let you have water for your cows." Meanwhile, until the DWP completes its court-ordered revised environmental impact report, a project that could take several years, DWP will restrict five-year leases to one year. Irrigation of Inyo ranchland, says a DWP official, is

(More NEWS BRIEFS, Page 8)

Kounty Klan Kuandary



NEWS-LETTER welcomes letters and comment relevant to public issues, and the editors will publish those considered timely. Most likely to be published are those letters of 200 words or less and those with concise viewpoints. Writers should address their statements to Box 531, Independence, 93526. NEWS-LETTER reminds its readers that publication of a letter in no way implies that the editors agree with its content.



MUSINGS, SPECULATIONS AND SUSPICIONS: THINKING ALOUD ON CANCER RESEARCH FROM AN IMAGINARY COACH'S BENCH

NEWS-LETTER:

In the April, 1978 issue of the Reader's Digest, there is an article entitled "America's Third Sector," written by John D. Rockefeller 3rd. The gist of the article is that contributions from the general public are on the decline for research, helping this and that charity, etc.

I would like to comment about one of these worthy causes, namely, Cancer Research. I would like to set myself up as one of the scientists in this field. I would also like to think of a team of these scientists as though they were a football team with myself as the coach. Our job is to try to get out there on the field and try to locate that elusive thing called the cause of cancer. Our opponent is a very formidable foe indeed and quarterbacked by Cancer himself who keeps handing the ball (germ) to anyone of his phantom players (different kinds of cancer germs), and they relentlessly keep scoring touchdowns (death).

Coach to the team: "Now look, you fellows, all we're expected to do is get ahold of that ball. We don't have to make a touchdown, just get that ball and victory is ours." But what happens if we do get the ball? Just think of all those noble people who worked for the space program and without a flaw put a man on the moon. They did a remarkable thing, but where are they now? Out here in space I guess, just floating around wondering where to land. "Now team, we have a much longer program and we would like to know where we are going to land once our mission is accomplished. We have a pretty good thing going for us right now and as long as we can look important by wearing nice clean laboratory clothes and squint thru microscopes and monkey with test tubes, we at least look real to the general public, and as long as the fire of hope keeps burning in the breasts of generous people, we at least pursue our research with dignity. It's a better way to live than to have to depend on food stamps. And we have our retirement in old age to consider. Yes, sir, if we find that cancer germ too soon - well, the public would sing our praises to high heaven, and then drop us like hot potatoes. There would be no "better second half" (Glendale Federal Savings tv ad) for us. So dig up something now and then to dangle in front of the good givers, like a cobalt treatment report - just something that sounds plausible."

Now I am well aware that this is all sarcastic and degrading, but the point is that in the "Third Sector," no mention is made of any incentive to inspire researchers to extend themselves and really solve the problems.

What's the reward? It has to be money. Enough.

-H.R. Carpenter
Bishop

(Editors' Note: Enough indeed. NEWS-LETTER shudders, probably because of the possibility, however remote, that there may exist a certain discomforting truth in Reader Carpenter's speculations. Risking the probability we carry his metaphor too far, we couldn't resist a little fanciful imaging of our own: a scoreboard set just south of Mr. Carpenter's mental playing field, and upon it at the end of the third quarter, the score:

Research 0 - Carpenter 0)

"RIGHTS" AND THE DWP: A SCREAM OR TWO FROM AN ANONYMOUS BIRD

To The Editor:

Nations are entitled to sovereign rights sanctioned by civilization. Government is entrusted, by man, with the preservation of human rights; the first right being the right of self-determination, a right which this country was founded upon, a right planted in the mind of every American by the Almighty.

As we sit in Inyo County, we are perplexed by the workings of "our" government officials. If California resides within the United States of America, and Inyo County resides within that state, and if the cities of Inyo County are within the boundaries of that country, how does ONE city, Los Angeles, own, control and dictate to another county and city? By land acquisition and the use of the powerful weapon called money.

But we are patient. What has to begin has begun. What has to be done, will be.

- Eagle

(Name withheld by request)

(Editors' Note: In principle, we couldn't agree more, but we'd probably feel better if we knew just what Eagle has "begun.")

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NOTES FROM B.K., Continued

IN THE MAIL: A lot of Inyo Countians were getting requests for handouts from Former Los Angeles Police Chief Ed Davis who wants \$116,000 for brochures "to explain my background and positions." (And that might take a little explaining, of course.) Davis, writing in a form letter, takes on what he calls the "liberal news media" right off the bat in trying to prove something or other about Jerry Brown, but he forgets that Brown has had much less than a good press in recent months, and most all of what Davis knows about it he got out of the papers himself. A lot of people think Davis may have done better staying in the police business, but also with his mouth shut. Says he: "Unless I can raise \$116,000 in the next two weeks, I may find myself too far behind to ever catch up and defeat Jerry Brown. So don't set this latter (sic) aside, please. Send me your contribution today." We'd need more than two weeks just to think about it!

VERY PLEASANT PEOPLE DEPT: "Nick" Zupo, friendly and helpful fellow who always has a big hello for people who go to visit the fish hatchery north of Independence. The hatchery is one of the county's beauty spots and Nick takes a special pride in the flower beds soon to be blooming there.

ALL THE DOWN SOUTH MAGAZINES are contradicting each other over who's who in Santa Barbara's social ladder. In case anybody cares (and no-

body, outside of Santa Barbara except chic magazine types, does) let's say that getting the facts would be difficult outside S.B.'s inner circles. The business folk there join the Montecito Club; The New Guard Santa Barbarans (new money) go to the Birnam Wood Club, and the Old Guard (oldy sturdy, well-established money) gather (when in town) at the Valley Club. And no matter what the mags say, the "real" Old Guard doesn't talk to magazine writers, never did and probably never will.

SO WHO CARES ABOUT SANTA BARBARA ANYWAY? Well, a few Inyo folk have friends there, and go "clubbing" there, so just wanted to get everything straight, so we know what "money" we're dealing with. The food's better at Birnam Wood.

QUICK, CALL YOUR BROKER and buy General Foods! The growing popularity of "Pop Rocks," a candy gimmick that explodes in your mouth (and pops right out if you open wide) has become a national rage. Kids everywhere are laying out up to 29 cents for a paper packet that contains about a tablespoonful of the stuff. The secret: carbon dioxide in the candy. And General Foods owns it without a competitor in sight.

MAY YOUR POP ROCKS maintain a decorous, moderate noise level....And may the news in your day be good news...every day..

Sincerely,

BK

VOTE
JUNE 6



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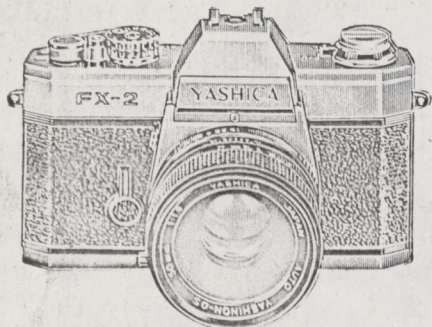
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MT. WHITNEY HATCHERY CONSTRUCTION SITE
...cracking down on the upstream source of 'fishy' water

HATCHERY UPSTREAM CLEANUP

ENDING OAK CREEK'S
'FISHY' ODORS

SOON AFTER THE COMPLAINTS of downstream residents rose to an angry cry - (Their drinking water, even when filtered, had a "fishy" odor.) - the Lahontan Water Board cracked down on the upstream source of their problems, the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery. That

was four years ago, but Lahontan officials gave the state hatchery time enough for planning, funding and construction for what all knew was a major project, even for tiny Oak Creek. The state was given until July of last year to get its system in order, but the Fish & Game Department couldn't get underway until January in its \$337,777 construction program that is now set for completion in June.

Source of the trouble was Fish & Game's periodic cleaning of the hatchery ponds. Having no alternatives, the hatchery dumped tons of silt-like waste-matter into the stream and this was carried downstream through the water source not only of nearby residents, but also Fort Independence's reservation properties.

A Sacramento-based construction firm, Rugen Construction Company, is building a system of "raceways" to handle the hatchery brooding stock north of the picturesque Mt. Whitney Hatchery building. Fish waste and debris will soon go into settling ponds - instead of into the waterlines of downstream residents.

The new system will go beyond the sanitizing of Oak Creek's waters. Says Hatchery Manager Jim Riley: "Now the fish will be handled only half as much. The spawning process can now take place in the new facilities. Before, we hauled them by truck from the ponds to the areas for spawning." The project is also a part of a general upgrading of the Mt. Whitney Hatchery. Thanks to a lessening water supply in the early '60's, the state had considered selling the hatchery, but the Fish & Game Department opted to invest further and improve the property and its operation. The plan to sell never got to the appraisal stage, although one or two well-heeled individuals in the state got wind of the plan and eyed the hatchery potential for a dramatic and lordly country estate.

The hatchery people now have some silt and debris problems of their own. The fast-rushing Oak Creek dumps tons of sand into the hatchery system. Another construction project will take care of that. Soon to get underway: construction of upstream settling ponds, at an estimated cost of about \$87,000.

Meanwhile, as the fish hatchery was cleaning up its problems, another pollution of a far more serious kind was attracting attention near Bishop: A second accident at Union Carbide Company had released into Pine Creek an undetermined quantity of sulphuric acid. For a story on what happened, see Page 1.

ELECTION, Continued

questioned about the deputies' statement, denied any complicity in its release. "Absolutely not," said Barton, and explained that the association operates completely outside of upper-echelon officers in his department.

Ms. Harness, a 32-year-old Olancho housewife, clearly fell within the category of "unqualified" as defined by the deputies. After reading and hearing news reports of the deputies' statement, she was quick to reply with a brief, pointed press release of her own:

"I was disappointed that the Deputies' Association could make this statement. I can't imagine our president, a peanut farmer, being turned down as the commander-in-chief of the armed forces because he can't operate a Sherman Tank or fly a B-52. Civilian control of military and police in administrative positions is called for in the Constitution. The people who wrote the laws encourage civilians to run for positions such as sheriff, and discourage the advent of military or police administration of government. This prevents any possibility of our country ever turning into a police state."

Asked if she thought the deputies' association had been aiming their statement at her in particular, she replied, "Certainly. Everybody knows that."

Her statement's reference to the lack of presidential qualifications to "fly a B-52" was prompted by another part of the deputies' announcement: "As State law now stands, were some tragedy to befall one or more of the qualified candidates on a ballot, our county could end up with a Sheriff less qualified to do the job than our newest recruit, someone who, according to California's own penal code, could not hold 'peace officer' status, carry a handgun, or even drive some types of emergency vehicles!"

If the sheriff's men were reluctant to admit officially that the statement was aimed at Harness' candidacy, a number of them showed far less reticence in their private comments. Said one officer firmly loyal to Barton's leadership: "I know for a fact she's running, and she's totally unqualified." Another, questioned on whether or not the issue of Harness' sex had anything to do with the statement, replied that "This is not a question of discrimination against women." Neither of the men would talk "for the record."

('ELECTION' Continued, Page 9)

NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

part of DWP's water project here. Although the decision to cut the lease terms "is not yet final, there was a sound of finality in the terse statement of Owens Valley's DWP boss Jim Wickser: "The proposal," he said, "is for one year instead of five." The Los Angeles Board of Water and Power Commissioners, which has shown a merciless lack of sympathy for Inyo County economics since the early 70's, will vote on the matter sometime this week. More bad news for the ranchers: Even with one-year leases, they will also be paying their city landlord higher rent rates. "A small increase," says Wickser, "not much different from the old agreement."

MEANWHILE, AS DWP CONTEMPLATED FUTURE WEALTH, it was busy counting its present riches, and "hoping" it might not drown in them. DWP's Wickser appeared before the county board of supervisors last week to pass along - officially - some information most of them already knew: the crucial Sierra snow-pack moisture stands now at a drought-breaking 190% of normal with "about 168% in the Mammoth area and 252% at Cottonwood near Lone Pine." Wickser said this year is "very similar" to 1967. But with the good news came the possibility of bad, and whether it happens or not may depend on Inyo's spring weather. Sudden appearance of warm days would bring on flooding in many valley creeks. "We're expecting the worst, but hoping for the best," said one of DWP's more optimistic spokesmen. Just in case their hopes aren't fulfilled, the DWP crewmen will soon "divert" some streams to spread the mountain water "on the cones for groundwater recharge." In that, DWP may need some help, thanks to manpower cutbacks. Inyo County Road Department crews may work alongside the DWP men when, and if, the water starts to flow.

THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION WAS DOING SOME HEAD-counting and, again, came up short. Top officials were showing increasing concern over the continued loss of key personnel, and looking around for replacements to fill two more vacancies opened by resignations. Ending their "county tour" of duty at week's end were Public Works Office Manager Patty Duncan, and Jim Wagner, a key figure in the county building and maintenance office. They both join this week an engineering firm headed by Roger Glidden, former assistant public works director, who resigned April 1. Said Wagner, echoing the parting statements of others who recently left the county: "I feel I can do more for myself in private business where there are fewer headaches with red tape and politics. I've gone as far as I can go in county government." Why all the recent resignations? Some departees blame a fuzzy personnel and pay policy that leaves county workers vulnerable to the machinations of political whim, yet protects higher-ups that many claim are inefficient and red-tape-oriented.

IF, AS THE COUNTY BOSSES WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE, two years amounts to "temporary employment," then two openings in Inyo's stagnating, paper-smothered planning department will be filled. Supervisor Wilma Muth said she does not want

"permanent personnel" and she zeroed in on Planning Director Doug Sherburne whose lackadaisical leadership has brought the supervisors very near the boiling point. "I think we've had the capacity (to get things moving) but the director has not been fully commanded. I'd like to see proof before there is a permanent tax burden." County Administrator John K. Smith was skeptical of the move to hire more workers, temporary or otherwise; it is his, and others', contention that Sherburne can handle the critical "general plan" problem without more workers - if Sherburne will tackle the job himself. "It's a matter of record," said Smith, "It was a matter of priority to complete the elements of the general plan two years ago. It hasn't been done, and for the past two years we've battled over how big the planning department should be. We gradually expanded, but it's still not done. I don't know if it's right or not." Sherburne meanwhile could offer little more than a suggestion that the county apply for an extension from the state, to avoid state prosecution for failure to have a general plan. A new problem arose in the question of where to put the new temporary workers: The county may now make a serious bid to buy the nearby Title Insurance Building to make more room for workers. The money-conscious conservatives in the administration were appalled, but may have no choice.

A RECURRING ISSUE OF WHETHER TO ALLOW DEVELOPERS to get by without putting sidewalks into Inyo housing tracts came up again last week at a supervisors' meeting. Under question was a six-dwelling development by Bishop's H.B. Rogers who had earlier asked the planning commission to "waive" the installation of walkways. The commissioners listened, and briefly agreed, but then turned down the request. The supervisors compromised; Rogers must provide sidewalks, but only on the perimeter of his development. Supervisor Dick Engel wanted more - sidewalks throughout the development - and he voted no to the compromise. To Engel, Inyo's suburbia was getting sub-suburban.

THE CALIFORNIA SOUTHLAND'S MANZANAR COMMITTEE returns to the old Manzanar concentration site south of Independence again this year for its ninth annual pilgrimage program. Manzanar was the first such camp into which thousands of Japanese Americans were quickly herded in the panicky anti-Japanese fervor generated by the outbreak of World War II. Nine others in other areas soon followed. The Manzanar committee's Sue Embrey said in a press release that "This pilgrimage acts as an educational field trip not only for Japanese Americans, but people in general. Speakers, cultural events, tours of the site (where several graves of inmates are tended by the visitors), and other activities will be happening." As a rule, several score Japanese families make the trip to Inyo in busses arranged by the committee. The 1978 event is set for April 22.

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ACCIDENT SPILL, Continued

ected downstream water for testing. "I saw a lot of dead fish, and the ponds at Forty Acres were discolored. A blue-grey suspension colored the water and the fish were dying. But I don't want to jump to any conclusions. We asked Union Carbide to submit a report on what happened and why."

One of the county's candidates found another issue in the Pine Creek spill. Roger Glidden took the opportunity to point out that Oldenburg's presence at the little disaster would not have occurred if the Lahontan Water Board had its way. "The plans are to move him out in July, and the rest of the Bishop Lahontan operation has already moved to Victorville. Oldenburg called the incident 'an illustration of why someone is needed up here.' Most of the downstream residents, faced the recurring surges of dead fish and acid-filled waters, would agree."

Meanwhile, officials at Union Carbide issued a press release shortly after the mishap. In it they confirmed they are attempting to estimate the amount of damage "caused from sulphuric acid seeping into Pine Creek." Questioned later in the week about possible new developments, they declined further elaboration, and said the matter was in the hands of company attorneys.

ROCKEFELLER GRANT, Continued

principal studies before now have tended to divide along the lines of the controversy itself, arguing on behalf of one side or the other. I hope that by presenting a complete record, separating legend from the real choices that have been made, this effort can make a positive contribution to a resolution of the city's differences with the Owens Valley community by establishing at least a common basis for understanding."

As he made plans for his study, Kahrl put out a plea for public input. He is currently conducting a hunt for records, photographs and other documentation of the Owens Valley-DWP water issue, and plans to include these, or copies of them, in his study. The grant-funded historian assures that his study will be "objective," and pointed out that "The involvement of the Foundation and so distinguished a university press should allay any fears that we are embarked on anything less than an objective study." The University of California will publish Kahrl's findings.

At least one of Inyo's public officials who has been embroiled in the water controversy welcomed Kahrl's study. District Attorney L.H. "Buck" Gibbons said Monday that "There's always a benefit to be gained when a scholarly and objective third party to the conflict sorts out fact from fiction in an unbiased statement. Any data by someone other than DWP, or for that matter, Owens Valley, would be welcomed. It is very good news."

Kahrl will center the thrust of his work on valley events since 1930, and says that his is the first real study in the last quarter century to treat in detail recent DWP history and the building of the second aqueduct.

One of the valley's Kahrl fans paid the researcher another compliment; "He's very humble for a state official," says Supervisorial

ELECTION, Continued

As the week drew to a close, the press release issue was boiling in the hitherto unnoticed camp of the Olancho woman's supporters. They were not unmindful of the fact that an attack - even a veiled one - from the deputy sheriffs might backfire, attracting public attention to the issue.

NEWS-LETTER questioned Gonzales on the meaning of the press release:

N-L: Was your news release a direct result of Jeannie Harness' candidacy?

G: Not a direct result. It was the result of unqualified candidates being able to get into a qualified position. Otherwise, X Number of dollars and signatures buys a person's place on the ballot.

N-L: Have other deputies' associations made similar statements?

G: Yes, during the LAPD election. Officers came out against non-law enforcement candidates. L.A. and San Francisco came out with their feelings to make people aware. With the selection of the LAPD chief of police, there were a number of non-police people who were going after the job. This is something that associations are doing this year.

N-L: What about Jeannie Harness?

G: I can't say. I know very little of her qualifications. But I can say that you have to have law enforcement experience to administer a law enforcement operation. Just like judges must be attorneys.

N-L: Although you say it was not a direct cause, did Jeannie Harness' candidacy have something to do with the timing on this press release?

G: This...plus the fact other associations are coming out with similar statements.

Aside from the matter of last week's announcement by the deputies, if there was any doubt left in anyone's mind about where the deputies stand in the election, they dispelled it quickly on Monday with still another press release which took a no-bones-about-it position in the sheriff's race issue. Said the DPA statement: "The Inyo County Deputy Sheriff's Association today announces their complete support for Sheriff Floyd Barton for re-election...complete confidence..in voters to recognize (his) qualifications..and to re-elect..Barton."

Candidate Moe Jacobson, who last year became involved in the water fight. "I wrote him a letter about how much I liked his work. We've been in touch ever since."

If past performance is a guide to the potential for future effort, Kahrl probably has the qualifications. While working for the Brown administration he effectively engaged himself in such projects as the enactment of the wild and scenic rivers act of 1972; the administration effort to develop small farm development through enforcement of the controversial federal reclamation law; and an Atlas of California's water resources which will be published late this year.

As for Rockefeller's attention to the relatively remote Owens Valley issue, it reflected the growing public heat generated by recent events. The foundation's advent into the controversy appeared to some here as a ray of hope for the embattled Inyoans.

OLD CROC(K) ... AND HIS OLD TUNE WITH A FEW NEW STEPS

HURRY, HURRY, PUSH IT THRU!
WATER METERS ARE GOOD
FOR YOU!
IN JUST TWO
WEEKS, A
RECORD TIME,
WE GOT YOUR
DOLLAR ON
THE LINE!



SPEEDY SERVICE, THAT'S
OUR AIM; ALL COMPLAINTS
ARE VERY LAME.
LOOK NOT FOR GREED,
NOR PERJU-RY!
WE'RE KNOWN FOR
OUR MORALI-TY.



HOW'S THAT AGAIN?... YOU'D
BUY A LOT?... WHY, CERTAIN-LY!
...ALL WE'VE GOT!
BUT THAT
WILL TAKE A
WHILE, YOU SEE

QUICK!
GET THE
HOOK!



...A YEAR
OR TWO,
OR...
MAYBE
THREE..

...! BECAUSE SUCH GRAVE AND
LOFTY DEALS MUST GO BEFORE
THE L.A. WHEELS. THEY NEED
TO KNOW THE
LAST DETAIL
BEFORE WE ACT
ON ANY SALE....

(SO SEE US IN
1986 FOR SOME
REAL FAST
ACTION...
OKAY, GOOD -
BUDDY?)



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